

Intimations.

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THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,

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A. S. WATSON & Co., Ltd.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,

Hongkong, 11th July, 1888

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, 1888.

THE shocking brutalities connected with the traffic in pigs between Hoihow and this port, which we thought had been abolished by our crusade of four or five years ago, again cropped up at the Police Court this morning, when Captain E. AKERDORF, of the German steamer *Anton*, was charged before Mr. H. E. WOOLHOUSE with cruelty to animals on board his vessel on July 29th. The evidence showed that the police boarded the *Anton* when she arrived here from Hoihow on the date named with a deck-load of pigs, and found the wretched animals packed closely together three tiers high, without a sufficient gangway between the tiers to allow the sailors to carry on the work of the ship, so that they had to move about on the top of the baskets containing the living freight. The police distinctly saw several men running backwards and forwards over the bodies of the pigs, all of which were more or less bruised or cut. There were about two hundred pigs on board, and one was observed in the lower tier with its entrails protruding. Captain AKERDORF admitted the charge and was fined £5.

We take the liberty of thinking, with all due respect to the Bench, that the defendant in this case got off far too cheaply, as we hold that nothing, not even the desire to accommodate an unscrupulous friend of a charterer, can justify deliberate brutality to helpless animals; but the paltry fine inflicted may, and we hope it will, although we have our doubts, prove a salutary lesson and a useful warning for the future. As the Captain of the *Anton* is quite an old hand on the China coast and has for years been thoroughly acquainted with the traffic carried on between the Southern Chinese ports and Hongkong, he cannot plead ignorance as an excuse for, or extenuation of, his offence; he was perfectly well aware that he was breaking the laws of this colony and condoning acts of brutality which had already been severely punished in the case of other vessels. The prosecution of the Captain of the steamer *Hainan* cannot yet be quite forgotten in local seagoing circles. The magistrate, however, as we have stated, took a lenient view of the matter—especially lenient considering the shameful cruelties laid bare by the evidence of the police—and probably thought he was satisfying outraged justice by imposing a paltry fine—which, however, happens to be no actual punishment to the defendant, as it is certain to be made good by the owners or charterers of the steamer. We do not consider that justice has been adequately satisfied, and would submit to the authorities that the charterers of the *Anton*, or the owners of the pigs and the persons responsible for shipping these animals in the disgracefully brutal and illegal manner described, should also be charged and summarily punished. The captains of these small Chinese chartered steamers are practically "nobodies" on board their own vessels; the entire business, the navigation of the ship excepted, being carried on under the direction of the Chinese comprador and his native staff. And the result of all this is that irregularities, of which this *Anton* case is a fair sample—are of distressingly common occurrence. We contend, therefore, that to hold the nominal master of the vessel legally responsible, as was done to-day, while the real criminals are allowed to escape scot-free, is only playing with the machinery of justice.

It is certainly a consolation, albeit a slight one, that the *Anton* is a German and not a British vessel; but of whatever nationality, it cannot be too plainly understood that no steamers amenable to the jurisdiction of this colony will be permitted under any circumstances to be used as floating torture dens for dumb animals. We shall no doubt be told that times are hard, and that as the masters and officers of a certain stamp of vessels which crowd the

China coast are kept at starvation wages, they must connive at the unscrupulous irregularities of their low class Chinese employers in order to ensure a decent living. Now, all that may be true enough—in fact, we know it is too true; but although such dirty work may be expedient on the ground of self-interest for these back-sliders from what was once considered an honorable profession, it must be severely dealt with when it amounts to an infringement of the law. It is really not surprising that vessels under the German flag make money when other steamers are failing to clear their expenses, if they are allowed with comparative impunity to bring deck-loads of pigs three tiers high, mangled and bleeding, into the Christian harbour of Hongkong as a medium of trade, and when found out at their disgusting business are merely fined £5. A great deal has been said lately from the Bench of the Supreme Court and other high places about the iniquity of kidnapping Chinese waifs and strays, and His Honour, Acting Chief Justice RUSSELL, has in plain terms sturdily intimated that in all bad cases kidnappers may expect the most severe punishments, including the lash. It seems to us that the atrocities to helpless animals on board the *Anton* are not very far removed from being as bad as kidnapping, and that there is not such a vast difference between traffickers in immorality and brutality respectively. That both offences should be firmly stamped out will not be denied, and in urging the police authorities to continue exercising the most strict supervision over the coasting tramps which use this harbour as the base for their nefarious trade, we would at the same time suggest to their Worshipships at the Magistracy that they will be doing a great public service by sentencing the next offender in the pig line brought before them to the longest term of imprisonment the law allows.

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter.)

FRANCE AND ITALY IN AFRICA.

LONDON, August 1st.

An angry feeling has arisen in Paris in consequence of reported French (?) Italian designs upon Tripoli. An official denial has been given to these reports and the note declares that the naval and military preparations of Italy aim at that port.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

THE O. & S. S. Co.'s steamship *Gaelic*, with the American mail, was entering the harbour when we went to press.

OUR daily summary of proceedings in the local share market, which has been omitted for some time past, will be resumed in our next issue.

A DOCTOR always remembers kindly his first patient, says a writer. Yes, but how often does he chip in and help to pay for the monument?

We read that the buildings now in course of construction in Manila for a Japanese Consulate, will be completed about the end of November next.

It is currently reported—on the usual authority of somebody who had it direct from the Board—that the Directors of the Dock Company have decided to recommend to the shareholders a dividend of 3 per cent. for the half year. The amount available for "writing off" has not transpired.

A WESTERN exchange calls for a new word to take the place of "hanged" in writing up accounts of executions by electricity in New York. Shall it be said that the condemned man was "electrified" at such and such an hour? That hardly sounds right. How would it do to write of him as having been "wired" or "shock'd"?

THIS *Courier d'Haiphong* publishes the new Regulations framed by the Acting Governor-General of French Indo-China for the admission, promotion and pensioning of employees of the Civil list. Considerable alterations and improvements have, says our contemporary, been introduced into these regulations, and it is hoped that many a grievance will in future be remedied.

DURING last year the amount of opium exported from Korea was as follows:—

Exports from Jinan	564,232
Exports from Fusan	211,074
Exports from Gensan	593,013
Total	\$1,368,269

Of this total, \$210,294 were for China and \$1,177,975 for Japan.

In 1848 Lieutenant Tchow was dismissed from the German army for surrendering the Berlin armory in the insurrection to the Civic Guard, and was condemned to fifteen years' imprisonment in a fortress. He escaped to Australia; and now, at the age of 73, he has returned, hoping that he was included in the amnesty proclaimed by the new Emperor. The Minister of War decides that his offence was unpardonable, and he will be re-imprisoned, probably for life.

THIS members of the Garrison Shooting Club gave a most enjoyable smoking concert last night at the Commissariat Building, the of which was kindly granted by Colonel Craster. The attendance numbered about one hundred, including naval and civilian visitors, and a very pleasant evening was spent under the genial presidency of Sergt. Mills. We believe it is the intention of the Club to give several similar treats during the trying summer season—providing the "powers that be" are favorable to such a mode of innocent enjoyment.

TO-MORROW morning between 9 and 10.30 o'clock the steam-launch carrying the Bethel flag will call alongside any vessel hoisting code pennant C, to convey men ashore to 11 a.m. service, at St. Peter's Seamen's Church, returning about 12.30.

AS notified in another column, the American Musical Comedy and Opera Company will appear to-night at the Theatre Royal, City Hall, in the ever popular "Les Cloches de Corneville," with Mr. J. F. Sheridan in the powerful rôle of Gaspard, the miser. The performance should be one of the best of the season, and will doubtless attract a full house.

WE are requested by the Acting Postmaster General to state that Monday being a general holiday the Stamp Office will be closed. The Post Office will be open from 7.30 to 10 a.m. and from 4 to 5 p.m. The drop box will be open all day. Deliveries will be made morning and evening. No mail extra will be issued. Should it be found necessary to alter the above arrangements on account of the departure of the English mail for Shanghai due notice will be given.

A NOTED wag named Jamie Graham, whose visits to the barber were few and far between, was met by a learned doctor who loved a joke and frequently exchanged hits with the wag. On this particular day the wind was high and Jamie's tangled locks were flying in the wind. "Man Jamie," said the doctor, as the pair met, "I wonder you don't get your hair cut." "Ye'll never get the chance, doctor," replied Jamie, "for yer heid canna grow as muckle as wad mak' a keapsake for yer sweetheart." "Weel, weel," replied the doctor, "it's an old saying, ye ken, that them wha maun be weel clad canna aye be weel fed." "Ah, but ye mind me o' another saying," returned Jamie. "It's nae use puttin' thatch on an empty barn."

We said the other day that the Chinese could be grateful. An instance of a different kind occurred last evening. As the Canton steamer was leaving the Jetty a Chinese merchant who had stayed too long on board tried to jump on to the pier. He missed, and fell into the water, which is twelve or fifteen feet deep. He was quite helpless, being unable to swim, but not one of his countrymen offered to help him. A Sikh constable, Khan Singh, No. 559, ran to the spot and went in to his assistance, keeping him above water till a sampan came and received him on board. The Chinaman was then insensible, and was taken to the Central Police Station to be attended to. When he came round he stated that he had a considerable sum of money in his purse when he fell in, and that he dropped several dollars out to lighten himself. It was hinted to him that he might show his gratitude substantially to his rescuer, but he only coughed up a little more salt-water, and said nothing—not even "Thank you."

THE Yankees are always miles ahead of the rest of the world. There is at present in Tokio a Dr. Bigelow, who hails from Washington, D.C. This gentleman, like so many of his enterprising countrymen, has a mission, a very special one. The desire of his heart, the object that is to lift him up to the seventh heaven of delight, is merely to trace the connection between the ancient civilisation of the Romans and the modern civilisation of the Japanese. This is a grand undertaking, and we trust Dr. Bigelow will succeed in finding the "missing link." He will, however, have in the first place something else to discover, and that is civilisation amongst the Japanese. Wearing European clothing, which makes them look ridiculous, and adopting a foreign constitution and spring foreign habits and customs, which are generally unsuitable, and which they but superficially understand, make but a spurious kind of civilisation at the best. Dr. Bigelow will find true Japanese civilisation amongst the myriads who wear the national costume and fill the sphere of life for which they were born. The modern sham, and it is a sham which will have but a fleeting existence, is a weak imitation of the fripperies of political and social life borrowed from England, France, and the United States, which degrades a free people. We shall await with interest Dr. Bigelow's endeavors to connect the ancient Romans with the Malay tribes who occupy the Land of the Rising Sun.

JUDGE DENNY, the well-known adviser to the King of Corea, accuses the Seoul correspondent of the *China Mail* with having written in a communication published in that paper "a deliberate and malicious lie," and calls upon our contemporary to make the *amende honorable*. "Every statement in the letter alluding to myself in connection with an audience by the King to Messrs. Walters and Ford," says Mr. Denny, "is unqualifiedly and absolutely false." And here is the shuffling apology offered by the Editor of the *China Mail* in defence of a correspondent who is plainly charged with being not merely a perverter of the truth but a deliberate and malicious liar:—

"We publish the above correction with much pleasure. It will be observed that Judge Denny does not deny that an insult was offered to the British representatives, but he denies all connection with it himself. We are sorry our correspondent implied blame where it did not lie, but he seems to have erred in this respect in company with the best informed journals in the North. [This is untrue.—Ed. *Hongkong Telegraph*.] It was not an unnatural thing, in view of Mr. Denny's position, to attribute blame to him, and it is well we have now got his emphatic denial. We have always entertained a high opinion of Mr. Denny's character, and have often had occasion to commend his official action; and we regret that any incorrect statements with regard to him should have been made in our columns." We have read many explanatory apologies, but never anything in equal this illogical concoction of irrelevant twaddle. However, as the character of both the *China Mail* and its Seoul correspondent are thoroughly well known to the limited circle who are likely to peruse the cowardly lie of Mr. Denny, that gentleman need be under no apprehension that his high character has suffered in the slightest degree.

By kind permission of Major W. T. Ellis, and the officers of the 2nd Northamptonshire Regiment, the Regimental Band will play in the Public Gardens, to-morrow (Sunday), from 9 till 10 p.m.

The following will be the programme:—
March....."Eggs"
Overture....."Schubert"
And Selection....."Mazurka"
Valse....."Sous le Palmier"
Selection....."Emile"
JOHN NIXON, Bandmaster.

WE learn that at a meeting of the General Agents (Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.) and Consulting Committee of the China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd., held this afternoon, it was arranged to declare an interim dividend for the half year of 6 per cent. The all important subject of the General Agents' remuneration and commissions still remains in abeyance, but it is an open secret that Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., recognising the altered character of the times, will be found prepared to make a reasonable and yet liberal concession to the shareholders. All's well that ends well.

THE returns of Japanese exports and imports during the first half of this year as compared with those during the same period last year were, according to the *Hakka Shimpoo*, as follows:—

First Half of 1887.		First Half of 1888.	
Exports	29,610,855.98	22,386,630.02	
Imports	77,940,924.23	18,545,998.49	

The above shows an increase of yen 6,881,195.96 in exports and yen 9,401,033.73 in imports in the present half year.

THE SEVEN AGES OF WOMAN.

All the world's a wardrobe, And all the girls and women merely wearers. They have their fashions and their fantasies. And one she in her time wears many garments. Throughout her Seven Ages. First, the baby, bedrid and bowered in her nurse's arms. And then the trim-hooped schoolgirl, with her flounces. And small-boy-scorning face, tripping skirt-waggingly. Coquettishly to school. And then the flirt, Ogling like Circe, with a business allude. Kept on her low-cut corset. Then a bride, Full of strange ideas, vested like an angel. Veiled vapourously, yet vibrant at glance. Seeking the Woman's heaven, Admiration. Even at the altar steps. And then the matron, In fair, rich velvet, with sunny skin lines. With eyes severe and spirit of youthful cut. Full of dress-saws and modish instances. To teach her girls their part. The sixth age shifts Into the gray, yet gorgeous grandam. With gold pince-nez on nose and fan at side. Her youthful taste still strong, and worldly-wise In sumptuary law, her quavering voice, Proving of Fashion and Follet, pieces Of robes and bangles rare. Last scene of all, That ends the sex's mode-swayed history, In second childhood and sheer oblivion Of youth, taste, passion, all, e'en love of dress.

—Boston Daily Advertiser.

WE frequently hear complaints from theatre-goers of the nuisance caused at the Theatre Royal, City Hall, by the clatter of glasses and the hum of conversation which are heard from the refreshment bar at the intervals, after the rising of the curtain. Of course, like every regular attendant at our public entertainments, we are quite well aware that these "grow's" are only too substantially founded, and we think the blame for recent lapses in this direction ought to be equally divided between the management of the Musical Comedy Company and the direct violators of the unwritten but thoroughly understood canons of good taste. The door leading from the bar to the orchestra and stage entrances, should be closed immediately the first bell rings, and the audience should distinctly understand the exact number of minutes to be occupied by the interval. Without making further suggestions, we are quite sure that Mr. Willard will promptly take effective measures to put a stop to this pronounced nuisance, and thereby provide as far as possible for the comfort and convenience of his patrons. And the frequenters of the refreshment room can materially assist the management by making a point of taking their seats as soon as the first bell rings.

THE *Spirit of the Times* has the following regarding Emperor of Norfolk, the "crack" Californian racer that recently won the Brooklyn Derby:—Emperor of Norfolk is probably the finest specimen of a thoroughbred horse that has appeared during the present generation. A bright bay with a star and near hind heel white, are his marks. But his conformation is the perfection of the unity of power and blood. We see many horses of the most exquisite quality, but they are delicate. We see many horses of great power, but they are coachy. The Emperor is a colt of enormous power, joined to the highest quality. His massive head and deep muscular neck, his mighty barrel hooped in by ribs as broad as your wrist, his great loin and his enormous stifles, which are on a level with his hips, all are of the most striking character. Most horses hollow in between the hips and the stifles. The Emperor is straight. His driving power is like that of an engine, his legs are without a blemish, and his feet broad, round, open at the heel and flat. He is unlike any horse we ever saw in appearance, in many respects a Lexington-looking colt, but we never saw a Lexington colt so perfect. This, his three-year-old form, he has suffered but one defeat, and that the first of the season, when he was beaten by Cruiser, whom he has since defeated every time they have met, conceding him weight. He is the best three-year-old in the world, and has appeared on the turf in this decade, and the only horse in America capable of beating The Bard, weight for age, from any distance up to a mile and a quarter. His greatest performance this year was when he took up 125 pounds and ran seven-eighths of a mile in 1.25, which is the fastest ever run by a three-year-old at the weight. All his races have been won so easily there is no telling how fast he can go, as he has never been pushed to make him win.

A CURIOUS individual sent a dollar to Lemm how an advertiser could "guarantee a man to make \$1,200 a year without work," and was told to put up \$12,000 to 10 per cent.

WOODYEAR'S Circus, which has been performing to large audiences in Macao during the week, will give a final performance this evening, prior to proceeding to Shanghai. The strength of the company has, we learn, been increased by the engagement of Valenz Brothers, who arrived here the other day from the Colonies, where their wonderful aerial and trapeze acts have fairly paralysed Australian audiences. Mr. Woodyear has a really good show, and ought to do well in the Model Settlement.

NAMES of things are often misleading. Here are a few noteworthy examples:—

The tuberoses is no rose, but a species of polyanthus.
Pompey's pillar has no historical connection with Pompey in any way.
Cleopatra's needle was not erected by the Egyptian Queen, nor in her honor.

Whalebone is not bone, and said not to possess a single property of bone.
Turkish baths did not originate in Turkey, and are not baths, only heated chambers.

German silver was not invented in Germany, and does not contain a particle of silver.

Black lead is not lead at all, but a compound of carbon and a small quantity of iron.
Brazilian grass never grew in Brazil, and is not grass; it is nothing but strips of palm-leaf.

Burgundy pitch is not pitch, and does not come from Burgundy; the greater part of it is resin and palm-oil.
Sealing-wax does not contain a particle of wax, but is composed of Venice turpentine, shellac and cinnamon.

Catgut is made from the entrails of sheep.
Cuttle-bone is not bone, but a kind of chalk once included in the fossil remains of extinct specimens of cuttlefish.

If the following details concerning the prices of American and Australian flour compared with the French article in the Haiphong market are correct, there is very little chance of the latter being in much demand in the near future. The *Courrier d'Haiphong* says that on the 7th December, 1887, the Government contracted for the purchase of 720 metric quintals, (say 720 hundredweights) of flour without specifying its origin. French flour was tendered at the rate of 62 francs 88 per 100 kilos. Had the administration purchased at this price the 30,000 quintals it required, it would have disbursed francs 1,836,400. As a matter of fact, however, on the 12th December, five days after the French offer, another adjudication took place for 15,000 quintals of American flour. This was offered at fr. 37.89. In August of the same year, an equal quantity of Australian flour was contracted for at fr. 37.77 per kilo; giving an average price of fr. 37.83 per kilo. As out of this sum 6 francs re-enter the treasury as Customs duty, the administration really paid no more than fr. 31.83 per kilo, which for the 30,000 quintals would have amounted to fr. 954,900, instead of francs 1,836,400 for the French article. The Protectorate thus realised an economy of nearly a million francs by taking American and Australian flour in preference to the French article. This speaks volumes against the protective system now in vogue in French Indo-China.

A WRITER in an English newspaper says regarding restaurants in Congo Land, where they serve monkeys on toast, smoked elephant, and broiled alligator:—"I know of no people who get oysters from trees but the Mandingoes, through whose country flows the Senegal and Gambia river. The bivalves are taken from the branches to which they attach themselves during high tide. Here is a Mandingo bill of fare which Reade, the explorer, leaves on record for the amusement of the curious: 'Then followed gazelle cutlets à la papillote; two small monkeys served cross-legged and with liver sauce on toast; stewed iguana, which was much admired; a dish of roast crocodile's eggs; some slices of smoked elephant (from the interior); a few agreeable plates of fried locusts, land crabs and other crustacea; the breasts of mermaid, or manatee, the grand *bonne-bouche* of the repast; some boiled alligator and hippopotamus steaks.' While this dinner does not equal in courses some of the elaborate feasts of civilized lands, certainly no one will say that it lacked variety. Lotus seeds form one of the most common dishes known to the Bari of Central Africa. The pods when gathered are bored and strung on reeds and hung in the sun for drying, after which they get to the table. Along the Upper Nile another wing of the Bari tribe bleed their cattle monthly and cook the blood with their flour and meal. They esteem this a luxury and the dish is eaten with great relish."

THE electioneering battle which lately took place in Macao, though now blown over and become a thing of the past, was apparently fought out with great rancour on both sides, for the shrieks of the wounded which are still to be heard from the columns of the local newspapers are loud and piercing, and lead one to believe that an election for a deputy to represent the Holy City in Lisbon is anything but the smooth constitutional affair it purports to be. The *Correio da Manhã*, as the organ of the loser in the contest, deplores the result in language quite befitting the occasion; while the *Independência*, representing the conquerors, has been singing itself hoarse in a style quite the reverse of gentlemanly and respectable. The *Yeu do Canto*, an amphibious production of that clerical party which for ages has worked the ruin of Macao, has been adding fuel to the flames by heaping certain uncalculated insults on the defeated candidate. And thus the newspapers of the Portuguese settlement, aided by their Hongkong weather-cock, the *Extrême Oriente*, have gone again shown themselves in their true colours, to the detriment of newspaper influence, and contrary to the spirit of justice and fair-play. This Billingsgate squabble is now abating a little, but now and again the embers of the dying conflagration are stirred by the powers of darkness, which rule supreme in the Holy City, and a lurid flame of discord occasionally illumines the obscure recesses of the local press, much to the amusement and instruction of impartial observers and unbelievers in things Portuguese.

CHINA has the credit of possessing more ducks than the rest of the world. In many breeding establishments over fifty thousand ducks are hatched annually by artificial means.

MISS EIKENSTREICH paints "cattle-pieces," concerning one of which an art critic says:—"Miss Eikenstreich's 'calves' are not in themselves intrinsically interesting; they stand out too much."

WARDER (to condemned man, eating his last breakfast): "Will you have some of the ham and eggs?" Condemned man: "A couple of the eggs, please, but no ham. It gives me indigestion."

"WHAT do you publish a paper for, I'd like to know?" sarcastically inquired an irate subscriber of the genial editor. "For \$24 a year, in advance," calmly responded the editor, "and you owe me for two years' subscription which I will feel obliged by your liquidating without further delay."

WE would call the attention of the responsible authorities to the great deficiency in the lighting of Praya Central. From the Steamboat Company's wharf to Murray Pier, the road is so full of obstructions in the way of cables, blocks of stone, etc., etc., that a night promenade there is anything but a safe diversion. If one takes into consideration the fact that three quarters of the road is unprotected by any sea wall, the necessity of increasing the existing lighting arrangements must be obvious.

EXPERIMENTS undertaken to determine the feasibility of inflicting the death penalty by electricity establish the following points: 1. That death produced by a sufficiently powerful electric current is the most rapid and humane of that produced by any agent at our command. 2. That resuscitation after the passage of such a current through the body and functional centres of the brain is impossible. 3. That the apparatus to be used should be arranged to permit the current to pass through the centres of function and intelligence in the brain.

MUCH has been said as to the position best adapted to sleep. Speaking generally, it may be said that the position upon the right side, in the majority of cases, is best suited to the requisites of brain repose. Various theories have been advanced with the view of explaining the superiority of this position, but they are on the whole unsatisfactory. As a matter of experience, however, with the exception of those who suffer from lung or other chronic affections, the type of sleep obtained in this position is usually of a more perfect character than that obtainable in other attitudes. Thus, however agreeable the position upon the back may be, it possesses the fundamental disadvantage that dreaming is greatly facilitated thereby, and thus the type of sleep is rendered less perfect. This lack of physiological adaptability is perhaps owing to the fact that a certain unequal increase in the cerebral circulation is engendered, and that thus certain regions of the brain are aroused into physiological activity, while others maintain a position of more or less complete repose. The elevation of the upper or lower extremities above the level of the trunk is not advisable except in exceptional conditions of debility, and then only under competent medical advice.

OUR CHINA SQUADRON.

There is a weakness in the composition of the natural man that makes him proud of everything which looks like national or personal strength, and for this reason we suppose a certain writer in the *Japan Gazette* of the 25th ulto. says, in speaking of the British China Squadron of warships leaving Yokohama, that as they steamed out in the regular order of Indian file from the harbour, at 11 a.m., and led by the new flagship *Impérieuse*, they presented a most imposing appearance. This about their appearance we are pleased to believe, and we would be immensely gratified to think that our squadron of fighting ships is really as powerful as it looked, for at an enormous expense of treasure, of time, labour, and mental anxiety, it was sent all the way from our home dockyards with the express purpose of fighting, when there was any such disagreeable business to be done. Those costly ships were not sent out here to be looked at in silent awe by a lot of semi-barbarians, nor yet simply to shake out of the folds of the old flag every morning and show its various bars and crosses of variegated blue and red to every nigger that comes along, but for purposes of offence and defence. Such, at least, is what we suppose to have been the object of the Admiralty, although there are competent critics at home who hold that the squadron is *imposing* only, and would be nowhere when it came to real business. What the results of an encounter with the Chinese or Japanese fleets would be it is impossible to predict, but our own opinion is that we only have about two ships in the British Squadron which would be capable of successfully standing up against any two of the five *assommoirs* which regularly at 6 o'clock every morning throw out to the breeze the quivering form of the blue dragon. The late additions of the *Impérieuse* and the *Porpoise*—the two ships we mean are the *Impérieuse* and the *Audacious*—do not, by any means, bring our squadron in Chinese waters up to its necessary fighting weight. We will not compare them, just now, with the squadrons of any European power in these seas, because there are none here in force great enough to compel our interest. Our ships look well on paper; every now and then we count them up and make no less than six and twenty; but as we have said, there are only about two out of that big sum which could be placed with any chance of success against the five or six armoured ships of China, or the five or six equally heavily armoured ships of Japan. China has, in addition, two very powerful ships which steam faster than the *Impérieuse* by a knot and three-tenths an hour, and which, in consequence, could always evade her four 24-ton guns, if loaded with averaging shells. In point of speed our squadron could do nothing with the superior swiftness of the Chinese fleet. Our two fastest ships are the *Impérieuse*, 16.75 knots per hour, and the *Porpoise*, 17 knots. China has two ships of 18 knots; four of 16 knots, five of 15 knots, and two of 14 knots. Of course, nobody supposes that our China Squadron should always be strong enough to meet the Chinese fleet, but what we have in these latitudes should be good and flat of their kind; and always prepared to make a better defence of British interests than Admiral De Tiesey on a certain memorable occasion made of the *Peruvian* waters. The five or six *assommoirs* of the *Extrême* class which do so much hard work at their anchors are a very doubtful addition to the strength of this squadron, while they seriously sap

